

Amendment, U.S. appl. no. 10/579,954
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Atty. ref. P03096US2A
(BJ001d0nUSc)

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 21-25 are pending in this application. Claims 9-10 and 26-35 have been canceled pursuant to the preceding amendments.

The 3/9 Action rejected each of the presently pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,811,479 (hereinafter "US'479").


In response to this rejection, Applicants reiterate their previously submitted explanation as to the teaching of US'479 and cite to the accompanying Rule 132 declaration of David F. Lawson, which further explains the teaching of US'479.

Because the § 102(b) rejection over US'479 relies on an improper reading of US'479, it should be withdrawn. Because that rejection is the only rejection of claims 1-3 and 21-25, its withdrawal will mean that the present application is in a condition for allowance.

This responsive submission is being made within three months of the mailing date of the 3/9 Action. Accordingly, no extension of time fees are believed necessary for its entry and consideration; however, if any such fee is or becomes due, it can be charged to the deposit account noted on the accompanying RCE transmittal.

Questions concerning this submission should be directed to the undersigned. However, the correspondence address of record remains the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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